IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3724

In re

Patent Application of

Jon Godston, et al

Application No. 10/668,393

Confirmation No. 2524

Filed: September 23, 2003

Examiner: Alie, Ghassem

"FOUR-BAR UPRIGHT PUNCH"

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132 OF BALAJI KANDASAMY

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Balaji Kandasamy, declare as follows:

1. I am an adult citizen of the United States, residing at 2696 Fox River Lane, Naperville, IL 60565.

2. I am an engineer with a Bachelor of Science degree from Kamaraj University, and an employee of ACCO Brands, Inc., located in Lincolnshire, Illinois. I have been involved in the design and manufacture of paper punches for ten years.

3. I am an inventor of the invention disclosed and claimed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/668,393, filed September 23, 2003 and titled "FOUR-BAR UPRIGHT PUNCH."

4. I understand that Examiner Alie, in an Office Action dated July 2, 2004, withdrew claims 1-7, 14-29, and 37 of the Present Application as being directed to a non-elected species.

5. I further understand that it is Examiner Alie's contention that the species illustrated in Figs. 11-14 is directed to a four-bar linkage, and because the term "four-bar linkage" is not used to describe the species of Figs. 1-9, the species of Fig. 1-9 must not contain a four-bar linkage.

6. I have reviewed claims 1-43 of the above-identified patent application as amended in the Response to the Office action included herewith.

7. The term "four-bar linkage is a term of art in mechanical engineering. One definition of a "four-bar linkage" is a mechanical linkage that includes a first link that rotates about a first axis, a second link that rotates about a second axis, a third link that interconnects the axes, and a fourth link that pivotally interconnects the free ends of the first and second links.

8. Figure A illustrates one possible four-bar linkage in which the first link is labeled (2) and rotates about a first axis labeled A_0. The second link is labeled (4) and rotates about a second axis labeled B_0. The third link, labeled 1(ground), interconnects the first axis

and the second axis. The fourth link, labeled (3), pivotally interconnects the free ends, A and B, of the first and second links.

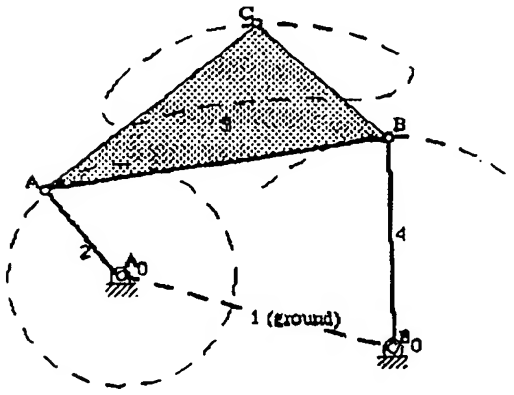

Figure A

9. Figure B is a marked-up copy of Fig. 2 from the pending application. The four-bar linkage is schematically illustrated with the links labeled as in Figure A. Specifically, the four bar linkage includes a first link, labeled 2 and comprised of a second drive member end cap 160. The second link is labeled 4 and comprises the second support member end cap 28. The third link member is labeled 1(ground) and is made-up of the base 6. The fourth link is labeled 3 and is made up of the second actuating end cap 138.

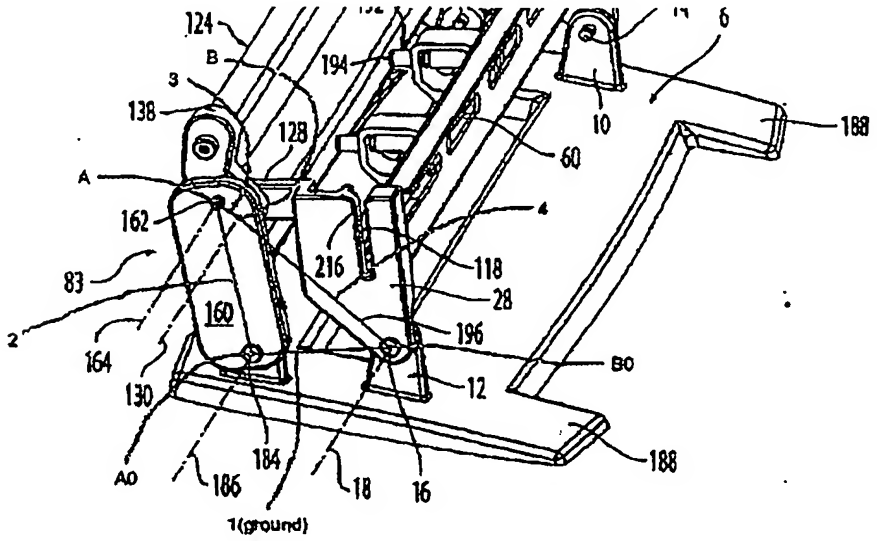

Fig. 2

Figure B

10. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the construction of Figs. 1-9 as including a four-bar linkage despite the lack of a description that explicitly identifies the four-bar linkage.

11. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine and imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Balaji Kandasamy

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